

I truly believe that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, and the power that big time media companies have to influence elections the way that they want things to go.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. And that we don't get biased shows that serve to only help Sinclair make more money, and in no way help out the communities of the local stations that they own.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. It's time for Sinclair and companies like it to start having defined rules to keep it

from interfering
with the public's
well being, and
demand that they
follow the rules
that keep our
democracy strong.
Thank you.